THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Inter-linking of rivers

1648. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of inter-linking of rivers in the country has been put off;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether Government have spent huge amount in the past five years on the inter-linking of rivers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the views of other Ministries have been sought on this issue; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f) An expenditure of Rs. 109.44 crore was incurred by National Water Development Agency (NWDA) during the past five years (2004-05 to 2008-09) for preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs) / Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of river link proposals under National Perspective Plan, preparation of Pre-Feasibility Reports/FRs of Intra-State links proposed by the states and other studies in this regard. The Government has provided a budget outlay of Rs. 182.80 crore for above works by NWDA during XI Plan (2007-12). The Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance has concurred the above outlay.

Area irrigated by canals

1649. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has spent several crores on various irrigation projects across the country in the past one decade or so but not a single hectare has been added to the total area irrigated by canals;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether Government has ascertained the exact cause of failure to add a single hectares of land for irrigation purposes in the last several years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the strategies to be adopted to make the goods use of canals for irrigation purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) Expenditure incurred by States for major & medium irrigation projects during the IXth and Xth Plan is reported to be about Rs 1,33,000 crores with creation of additional irrigation potential of about 9.4 million hectare.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) With a view to fully utilize the created facilities, due emphasis has been laid on command area development and water management programme. Government of India provides assistance to States under the scheme "Command Area Development & Water Management". Further, the extension, renovation and modernization (ERM) are also considered for support under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) as per approved guidelines.

Dugwells scheme

1650. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of Dugwells Scheme;

(b) the funds allocated and spent and targets achieved so far, in various States;

(c) in what manner Rajasthan has implemented this Scheme so far, achievements thereof; and

(d) the funds allotted to Rajasthan for Dugwells Scheme, in the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (d) The scheme on 'Artificial Recharge of Groundwater through Dugwells' has been launched in the year 2008 with a total outlay of Rs. 1798.71 crore in 1180 Blocks/Talukas/Mandals in seven States including the State of Rajasthan. The objectives of the scheme include, recharge of existing dugwells, improvement of ground water situation, increase in sustainability of ground water during lean period and improvement in the overall agricultural productivity.

204 assessment units (Over-exploited, critical and semi-critical) in 33 districts of Rajasthan, which are predominantly underlain by hard rocks are covered under the scheme. 1065051 dugwells have been identified for coverage under the scheme. An amount of Rs. 34.082 crore has been allocated for Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities and Rs. 283.070 crore has been allocated as subsidy for beneficiary farmers in the State. The funds allocated and spent under the scheme are indicated in the Statement.